

KETTERING  
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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MEDICAL OFFICER'S

AND

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S


ANNUAL REPORTS

FOR 1897.

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# MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT

## FOR 1897.

*To the Kettering Urban District Council*

Introductory. **G**ENTLEMEN,  
In presenting to you my Annual Report, I feel great pleasure in stating that the health of the district has been most satisfactory; the general death rate, and the zymotic death rate, are both exceedingly low, and will, I feel sure, compare favourably with those of any similarly situated town, and even with some districts which are looked upon as health resorts.

Population. The population of Kettering in the middle of the year, must, according to the usual method of calculation, have been in round numbers about 26,500, probably rather more, as many of the houses in some parts of the town are very fully occupied, while hardly one stands empty.

		Males.	Females.	Total.
Birth and Death Rates.	The number of Births in 1897 was	486	447	933
	The number of Deaths was ...	206	153	359
	This gives a Birth Rate of ...	35·2 in the 1000.		
	And a Death Rate of ..	13·5 in the 1000.		
	The Zymotic Death Rate was ...	·4 in the 1000.		

During the last ten years these rates have been as follows:—

	Birth Rate.	Death Rate.	Zymotic Death Rate.
1888	36	16	·9
1889	36	12	·3
1890	34	17·8	4·8
1891	38·1	14·6	·3
1892	38·3	16·1	·6
1893	31·3	15	1·09
1894	34·7	14·9	2·4
1895	36·5	13·5	·7
1896	34·4	14·2	2·3
1897	35·2	13·5	·4

The mean rates for  
the decade are                      35·4                      14·7                      1·3

During the ten years completed by 1897 the number of deaths from the five following diseases have been:—

Small Pox.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria	Typhoid.	Measles.
1	28	9	47	127

Here follow the statistics of illness and death required by the Local Government Board, to which I add a list of the causes of all the deaths occurring in 1897.

## TABLE OF DEATHS.

During the Year 1897, in the Kettering Urban District, classified according to  
Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

Names of Localities adopted for the purpose of these Statistics; public institutions being shown as separate localities.	MORTALITY FROM ALL CAUSES, AT SUBJOINED AGES.						
	At all Ages.	Under 1 Year.	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and up- wards
Kettering Urban .. . . .	320	114	38	12	19	71	66
Kettering Union..... ..	37					7	30
Infectious Diseases Hospital .. . . .	2		1	1			
Totals .. . . .	359	114	39	13	19	78	96

### MORTALITY FROM SUBJOINED CAUSES, DISTINGUISHING DEATHS OF CHILDREN UNDER FIVE YEARS OF AGE.

Names of Localities adopted for the purpose of these Statis- tics, public institutions being shown as separate localities.		Scarlatina.	Membranous Croup.	Erysipelas.	Whooping Cough.	Diarrhoea and Dysentery.	Rheumatic Fever.	Phthisis.	Bronchitis, Pneumonia and Pleurisy	Heart Disease.	Influenza.	Injuries.	All other Diseases.	TOTAL.
Kettering Urban	Under 5		1		4	10		2	33			2	100	152
	5 upwds	1		2			3	27	17	22	4	6	86	168
Kettering Union	Under 5													
	5 upwds								2	5			30	37
Infectious Diseases Hospital	Under 5	1												1
	5 upwds	1												1
Totals .....	Under 5	1	1		4	10		2	33			2	100	153
	5 upwds	2		2			3	27	19	27	4	6	116	206



Area and Population of the District or Division to  
which this Return relates :

Area in Acres	...	...	...	...	...	2,840
Population (last Census)	...	...	...	...	...	19,453
„ (Estimated to middle of 1897)					...	26,500
Death Rates.—General, 13.5 per 1,000 Population, estimated to middle of 1897.						
„	„	Infant (under one year of age, 122.1 per 1,000 Births Registered.				

TABLE OF POPULATION, BIRTHS, AND OF NEW CASES  
OF INFECTIOUS SICKNESS,

Coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health, during the year 1897  
in the Kettering Urban District, classified according to  
Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

Names of Localities adopted for the purpose of these Statistics, Public Institutions being shown as separate localities.	Population at all ages.		Registered Births.	New cases of sickness in each locality coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health.						Number of such cases removed from their homes in the several localities for treatment in Isolation Hospital.	
	Last Census.	Estimated to middle of 1897.		Age under 5 or over 5.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Croup.	Enteric or Typhoid.	Erysipelas.	Scarlatina.	Enteric or Typhoid.
Kettering Urban	19,453	26,500	923	Under 5	16		1		2	9	
				5 upwds	43	1		11	29	43	4
Kettering Union			10	Under 5							
				5 upwds					1		
Total ...	19,453	26,500	933	Under 5	16		1		2	9	
				5 upwds	43	1		11	30	43	4



## Influenza.

Influenza was very prevalent during the three last months of the year. The cases were very numerous indeed, greatly interfering in some instances with the conduct of work in some of the Factories and elsewhere.

The disease came on in several different forms, nearly all suffering from sore throats, and intense headache, and many from Gastro Intestinal symptoms. Four deaths were certified as directly due to Influenza, and doubtless several others succumbed to its after effects, and complications connected with it.

## Scarlatina.

Scarlatina may be said to have been endemic during the year. Cases have occurred in all parts of the town, and often with no apparent connection with each other. It is probable that this disease has been passed on from one to another, owing to very slight cases not having been recognised by parents, the illness having run its course without any medical advice being sought. It would be well for school teachers to inform the Inspector in all cases where any suspicion of this very infectious disease exists.

The "Joint Hospitals" have been freely used for this disease almost continuously, and with great success, care has been taken to keep patients in Hospital long enough to make their return safe, and in no instance has the disease spread from those who had been isolated there. This Report shows that a large proportion of the cases notified took advantage of the Hospitals. Fifty-nine cases with three deaths were recorded. The notifications were as follows :—

January	... 14	April	... 3	September	2
February	... 8	June	... 5	October	... 2
March	... 5	August	... 7	November	... 9
				December	4
				Total	... 59

In houses where the disease was treated at home, the rooms were carefully disinfected; and the disinfecting apparatus at the Hospital has been used for infected articles which were not destroyed.

## Diphtheria.

Only one case of Diphtheria was notified, which recovered. No special cause could be discovered for its occurrence.

Typhoid  
Fever.

The town has been almost free from Typhoid Fever during the year. Only eleven cases have been notified, and no death has been registered as caused by this disease. Five of these were treated in the Hospital. They occurred in the following order :—

January	... 1	August	... 2	November	2
March	... 1	September	... 1	December	1
April	... 1	October	... 2		—
					11



The following were the localities where those who were attacked resided :—

Rockingham Road, no cause discovered ; Havelock Street, two cases, no cause discovered ; Duke Street, no cause discovered ; Dalkeith Avenue, two cases from drinking impure water ; Albert Street, imported from Desborough ; Stamford Road, imported probably from Melton Mowbray ; Montagu Street, back premises in a bad state ; Green Lane Terrace, no cause discovered ; Regent Street, no cause discovered.

Out of eleven cases there were ten different localities spread over eight months of the year. The drinking water was repeatedly tested in every case, the private drains and the public sewers in each locality were repeatedly flushed, and disinfectants freely supplied and made use of.

Diarrhœa. We have been free from any outbreak of Cholera or Diarrhœa.

Measles. No death from Measles occurred, and cases were very few in number.

Notification of Infectious Diseases. The Notification of Infectious Diseases has again been of great service, and worked without the least friction. The Doctors have again kindly given your officers every assistance, by informing them of suspicious or doubtful cases, before they felt justified in notifying, so that no time has been lost in using preventive measures. The cases notified have been as follows :—

Scarlatina	...	59	Croup	...	1
Diphtheria	...	1	Typhoid Fever		11
Erysipelas	...	32			—
			Total	...	104

Just 50 cases less than in 1896.

I have continued to communicate to the Local Government Board weekly the cases notified, and have in return received from them those notified from other places, and I have on several occasions held communications with other Medical Officers of Health, with regard to the removal of persons supposed to be suffering from infectious diseases from one locality to another. This is a practice which might be more fully carried out with advantage.

In connection with this subject of inter-communication of Medical Officers of Health and Sanitary Inspectors, I may mention that the Annual Meeting of the Sanitary Inspectors of this county was held at Kettering in the autumn, in the Board Room of the Union, kindly lent for the purpose, under the presidency of your Chairman, when a paper was read, and an interesting discussion followed, after which the Company inspected your new Sewage Works and the Hospitals, and having been entertained by your officers, expressed themselves as much pleased with their visit.



Water  
Supply.

The Water Supply has been ample throughout the year, and excellent in quality, there has never been less than a year's supply in the Reservoir.

An Act of Parliament will probably be shortly obtained for the transfer of the Waterworks from the present Company, to the Urban District Council.

Lodging  
Houses.

There is only one licensed Lodging House in Kettering, and this, although often very full, has always on the numerous inspections made, been found clean and in good condition, and free from all infectious disease.

Dairies and  
Bakehouses.

The Dairies and Bakehouses have been on the whole very well kept; no case of infectious disease has been traced to milk supplies.

Joint  
Hospitals for  
Infectious  
Diseases.

The Joint Hospitals, for infectious diseases of the Kettering Urban and Rural District, have been in use all the year, except once for an interval of a fortnight. Four patients remained in the Hospital at the end of 1896, all of whom recovered. The number of patients admitted during 1897 was 62, Scarlet Fever 57 cases, Typhoid Fever 5 cases; 53 cases returned to their homes cured. Two cases of Scarlet Fever died, and 7 cases, all convalescent, remained in the Hospital at the termination of the year.

All the cases except one, a Typhoid case from Broughton, were admitted from the Urban District.

The new building erected by the Rural Council has been completed, and used for several weeks. We now have ample accommodation for 32 patients, 12 of the beds being in a completely detached Hospital, so that different diseases can be safely treated without fear of infection; and there is also, almost always, room for the isolation of doubtful cases, without fear of their taking any illness themselves, or conveying it to others when discharged. Miss Lanyon, the nurse-matron, has given every satisfaction to the patients and their relatives. I believe not one complaint has been made during the year. She has been ably assisted by Nurses Tibbits and Fletcher, and on one occasion only has it been found necessary to obtain extra assistance for a few weeks.

## Factories.

The Factories have been visited and inspected from time to time. A great improvement has taken place during the last few years in their construction and healthiness. One or two very serious accidents have occurred in connection with the machinery.

General  
Hospital.

The new General Hospital was opened to the public in the autumn, and has already been freely used; a greatly needed want in the district has thus been supplied.

Slaughter  
Houses.

The Slaughter Houses have in most instances been well kept, but several of them are in most unsuitable places, and one at least has been used for a far greater number of animals than could be properly accommodated in so small a space.

Meat, Fish,  
and Fruit.

Meat, Fish, and Fruit, has been frequently inspected, especially in the market; and a warning now and then has been in most instances enough to prevent anything unwholesome from being offered for sale.

District  
Nurses.

The District Nurses have done excellent work throughout the year, and their attention must have been the means in some cases of saving life, and thus lessening our death rate.

Houses unfit  
for  
Habitation.

Seven houses have been closed by order of the Council as unfit for habitation.

Sewers and  
Sewage.

A vast amount of work has been done during the past year in the matter of sewers and sewage.

New Sewers have been constructed in Headlands Road, Bowling Green Road, London Road, Lower Street, Northall, Rockingham Road, Montagu Street, Bath Road, Silver Street, and Dalkeith Place, the old sewers being now used for surface water only.

New surface water drains have been made in Northampton Road, Midland Road, Queensberry Road, Hawthorn Road, Montagu Street, and adjoining streets, Duke Street, Buccleuch Street, and the streets branching from them.

The new work in the sewers includes the disconnecting of both new and existing sewers from the main outfall sewers, and a number of additional ventilating pipes are being erected. These arrangements will prevent gases from ascending into the town, and the foul emanations from the manholes, which have been the cause of so many complaints will no longer exist.

The old precipitation tanks are being much enlarged, and the method of passing sewage through them altered, so that it will be almost impossible for any solid matter to come over with the effluent. Both precipitation and effluent will be greatly improved. One Filter is almost completed, and another is in a forward state; arrangements will be made to work them as soon as possible. Progress is also being made with the 30 acres which has been purchased for the further purification of the sewage.

The Filters are constructed chiefly of coke breeze. the area of each filter bed being 1800 square yards, containing coke breeze four feet thick.

Although the outlay for these works must necessarily be great, the result will be worthy of the rapidly increasing town which Kettering has become, and it is greatly to be hoped that the very low general and Zymotic death rates will continue, and even improve; while the effluent from the Sewage Works before it passes into the brook will be absolutely pure.

Public  
Slaughter  
House.

Perhaps the public work most required in this district, is the erection of Public Slaughter Houses. The time is not far distant when the inspection of Meat will be considered of far greater importance than has been attached to it in the past, while the treatment of animals before slaughter, and the places in which the carcasses are dressed, ought certainly to be carried out under the strictest rules of cleanliness. These arrangements can only be executed to the best advantage by the use of a public abattoir, and the demolition of the smaller and unsuitably situated slaughter places.

Water Closets  
without  
Water.

There are still many Water Closets in the district without cisterns, depending entirely for their cleanliness upon hand flushing. This principle is necessarily a bad one, but a very difficult one for which to provide a remedy, as many of them are in such a position that it would be almost impossible to prevent the freezing of the cisterns and supply pipes in severe weather.

All parts of the district have been inspected during the year. The absence of Epidemic disease has prevented the necessity of house to house visitation, except in one or two instances.

I am deeply indebted to the Surveyor and Inspector for the prompt and valuable help they have given me at all times throughout the year 1897.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

**J. WINTER DRYLAND.**

KETTERING,

JANUARY, 1897.



# REPORT

OF THE

## Inspector of Nuisances for 1897.

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*To the Chairman and Councillors of the Kettering  
Urban District Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit to you the following details of Sanitary Work carried out during the past year:—

- 112 Special House Inspections were made.
- 18 Waste and Rain-water Pipes were cut off from drains.
- 64 Blocked Drains affecting 192 houses were cleared.
- 36 New Drain-traps were fixed.
- 17 Drain traps were repaired or reset.
- 15 Drains were re-laid, and 17 Tippers put in order.
- 9 Inspection Chambers were constructed.
- 19 Badly-paved Yards were newly paved or repaired.
- 35 Old Water Closets and Urinals were cleansed and repaired,  
in these 8 New Pans and 7 New Traps were fixed.
- 3 New Water Closets were constructed, and water laid on to  
5 others.
- 4 Vaults and Cesspools were abolished.
- 4 Nuisances caused by overcrowding, 3 Smoke Nuisances and  
4 Nuisances caused by Temporary Privies were abated.
- 7 Houses were made fit for habitation.
- 24 Offensive accumulations were removed.
- 5 Pig and Fowl nuisances were abated.
- 23 Rooms, Bedding, &c., were fumigated.
- 5 New Ventilating Pipes were erected on private property.

Sixty-five samples of Water were taken for testing, resulting in 35 houses being supplied with the Company's Water, and five Wells being cleansed.

Five samples of Water taken from the Cransley Reservoir, and from services in the town, were submitted to the Public Analyst for analysis.

Twenty Flushings of Water Closets and side drains have been carried out on premises where Typhoid Fever has existed.

Two Slaughter-houses have been newly paved. On premises adjoining slaughter houses 1 drain was re-laid, and 2 Receptacles for manure were removed. In Factories and Workshops 3 over-crowding and 10 other nuisances were abated.

Thirteen persons were prosecuted for using obscene language in the streets, these were reported, and when necessary, proved by the Police. One person was prosecuted for allowing a nuisance to recur.

Twenty-four persons were fined for allowing their Chimneys accidentally to be on fire.

Legal notices were served in 19 cases, but in 1 case only were legal proceedings called for.

Since September 10th, eleven visits have been made to public buildings in order to see that the provisions of Section 36 of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890, were carried into effect.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

**JOHN BARRITT,**

INSPECTOR OF NUISANCES.







